

## Meeting Minutes

# Disability Committee

*January 6, 2010 at Morris County Library*

### **Attendees**

**Members:** Rachael DiCioccio, Lucile Nering, Qadriyyah Sakhu, Holly Shuart

**Staff:** Jack Patten

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m.

### **Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services Update**

Maureen Craven was unable to attend; she will provide a full report at the next Committee meeting.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator Report**

Lyn Krisa was unable to attend; she will provide a full report at the next Committee meeting.

### **Disability Navigator**

Jack Patten reported that on December 1, the WIB received a Notice of Obligation from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJ LWD) for \$70,125 to fund a Disability Navigator position. After exploratory conversations with Maureen Craven and NJ LWD representatives, the WIB decided that funding could be used most effectively by retaining Paula Genschow, the previous Disability Navigator. NJ LWD will use the funds to directly retain Ms. Genschow in the much expanded position.

The Disability Navigator will not only seek to assist clients with disability-related issues and facilitate the use of assistive technology, but also evaluate TANF customers who have been unable to sustain permanent, long-term employment as a result of disabilities or learning impairments. Any newly-identified customers will be referred to the NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services for additional assessment and job readiness skills.

### **Census**

Jack Patten reported that he and Olga Burns met on December 10 with Amy Gilthorpe of the U.S. Census Bureau. Ms. Gilthorpe's role is to increase census participation in Morris, Sussex and Warren counties. Olga arranged for Ms. Gilthorpe to visit One-Stop Career Centers to promote census activity.

Census 2010 questionnaires will be mailed to households in the middle of March. April 1, 2010 is official Census Day. Questionnaire responses should represent the household as it

exists on April 1. More detailed socio-economic information will be collected annually from a small percentage of the population through the American Community Survey.

The U.S. Constitution requires a national census every ten years. The census will show state population counts and determine representation in the U.S. House of Representatives. Jack also pointed out to the group that population is a key component of federal and state funding and it is in the interest of all social service agencies to promote census participation among target groups, including persons with disabilities.

Full information on Census 2010 can be found at: <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/>

### **New Business**

Rachael DiCioccio announced that Employment Horizons will present a Wine & Food Tasting at Ruth's Chris Steak House to benefit their programs and services. The affair will be held Friday, January 29 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at 1 Hilton Court, Parsippany. Tickets can be purchased for \$45 each by calling Crista at 973-695-0002.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2010.